

**SPANISH GULCH MINES**

**Have Been Worked for the Past Thirty-Five Years**

Situated in the southeast corner of Wheeler county, in the Camp Watson mountains, a spur of the Blue mountains, are the Spanish gulch gold diggings, consisting of extensive placer and numerous quartz veins, from which for the past thirty five years gold has been taken, which in the aggregate compares favorably with any similar area known. And after so many years of successful mining, the quartz propositions, especially, are still in their infancy, and new discoveries in placers are of very recent date. These mines take their name from a discovery made in 1862 by two Mexican or Spanish packers, who worked out a "pocket" found in a ledge that crosses the gulch in the vicinity of the old trail. In the fall of 1864 a company was organized in Canyon City to prospect on Rock creek and its tributaries. The moving spirit in the enterprise was the late Dr. J. M. McCoy, well and favorably known to the old pioneers of Grant county, and for many years a resident of East Portland. Finding nothing on the creek, they turned their attention to the gulches and found favorable prospects in Spanish gulch, which led to the formation of a company, with the doctor as manager, which surveyed out the first ditch and built the same in 1865. This ditch is seven miles long and was worked by the hydraulic process, the company using a "distributing chest," the most improved method of that day, which has long since given way to the "giant." Other discoveries have been made, another ditch was constructed in 1871. It is five miles long, also from Rock creek. Both of the above ditches are owned by George V. Owens, Milt Laswell, Mrs. John Erickson and Mrs. W. E. Waterman.

The third ditch brought to the gulch is from Birch creek and was built by Dr. F. C. Horsley in 1872, and is known as the Sho Fly ditch. It is now owned by Geo. V. Owens. There are two other mining ditches, one from Rock creek, known as the Sand Gulch ditch, owned by Joles & Co., of The Dalles, six miles long; the other is from Birch creek, also six miles in length, owned by Judge Keeley & Co.

The best developed quartz claim is the Red Jacket, owned by F. S. Allen, Andrus & Co. We were shown four assays from an average of the ore that ran \$16, \$19, \$22 and \$24 respectively. The vein is from five to seven feet in width.

The Kershaw brothers have a quartz claim that bids fair to become a bonanza. George Anderson has one of the best prospects in quartz there is in this county. The name of the claim is not known to the writer.

Judge Kelly and associates have a bond and lease on the Blue Bucket and Mystery quartz claims, and have a one-stamp mill to test the ore, and if it proves good, will add more stamps in the spring. The Blue Bucket and Mystery are owned by Charles McCowan & Co.

Messrs. Owens and McCoy have two claims on Jupiter mountain, Spanish Gulch mining district, a recent discovery. The vein is 125 feet in width and any of the quartz shows from a trace to \$3.50 in gold on the surface. These claims are known as the Noma and Marion and are deemed valuable propositions.

The best placer is owned by Robert D. Cannon and W. H. Johnson & Son. In a ten weeks run last summer with four men they cleaned up \$9,800. The gold is coarse and of good quality. They took out several nuggets of from \$50 to \$100 and one piece of sixteen ounces, valued at \$272.

The next best placer, which is more ex-

tensive than Cannon & Johnson's claim, is owned by Joles & Co., who last spring took out a \$300 nugget, which, however, had considerable quartz attached to it. Joles & Co. cleaned up \$4000 during the season.

Billy Waterman & Co. cleaned up \$2500 in a four or five weeks run.

The old Spanish gulch claims are worked by Chinamen and it is not known how much they took out; but a conservative estimate places at \$30,000 the total amount taken from the Spanish gulch placers in the year 1900.—Canyon City Eagle.

**Another Sale of the Golconda Reported.**

Another Associated press dispatch last week announced that John T. English, one of the two principal owners of the Golconda mine on Cracker creek, left for Chicago to close the papers transferring that property to a Chicago syndicate, which will take immediate possession of the property. The consideration of the transfer is placed at a half million dollars. The names of the purchasers have not been learned, but are supposed to be John W. Gates, the iron and steel magnate, and associates, whose expert, Captain J. R. Woods, was in the Sumpter district last year examining and reporting on a number of properties. In April, 1900, Captain Woods succeeded in practically closing a deal involving the E. & E. mine, for a consideration said to be in six figures; but at the eleventh hour some of the St. Louis stockholders in the E. & E. company raised the price and the deal was declared off.—Baker City Herald.

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ABSTRACTS**

Real Estate, Loans and Insurance. Mining Patents Obtained

Years of experience in Baker County Records.  
No. 2104 Court Street, Baker City, Oregon.